

CLAIM

A SONG OF IRE AND VICE

#3 OF 4



ALMES WRIGHT DIMITRIEVSKI BIRCH



DEEP WATER
GAMES



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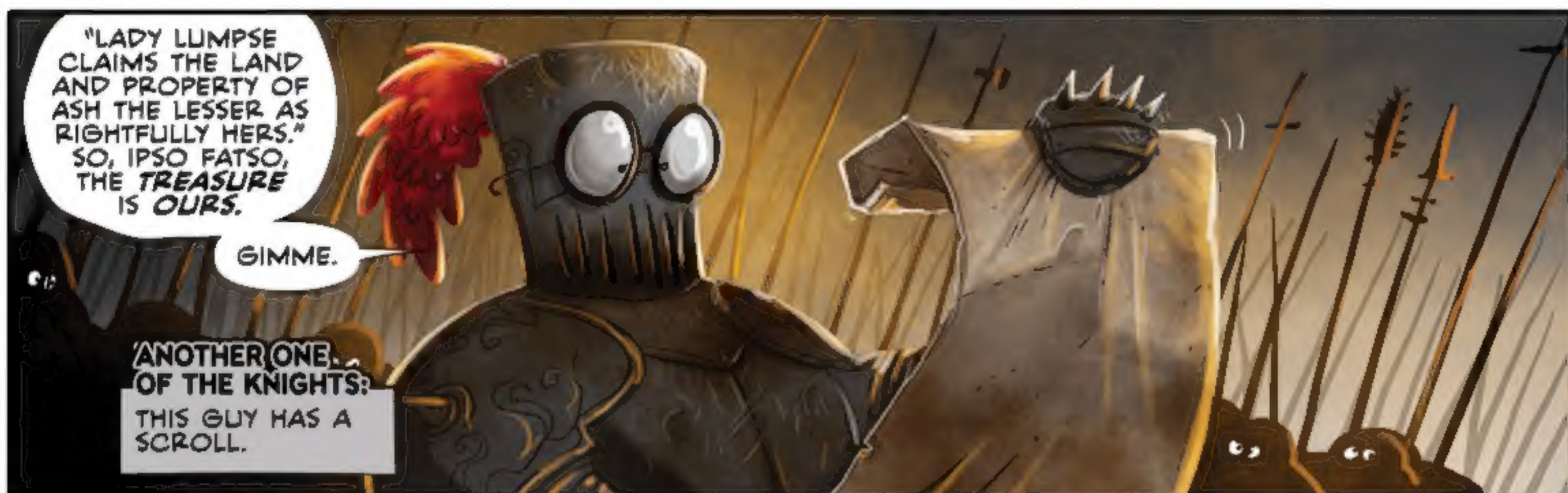
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AREN'T YOU GLAD WE'RE COLLABORATORS?

...



I HEARD THAT DUNGEON AIR IS GOOD FOR THE SINUSES...

...



...

HEY... IS THAT HOLLY?



IT IS HOLLY!

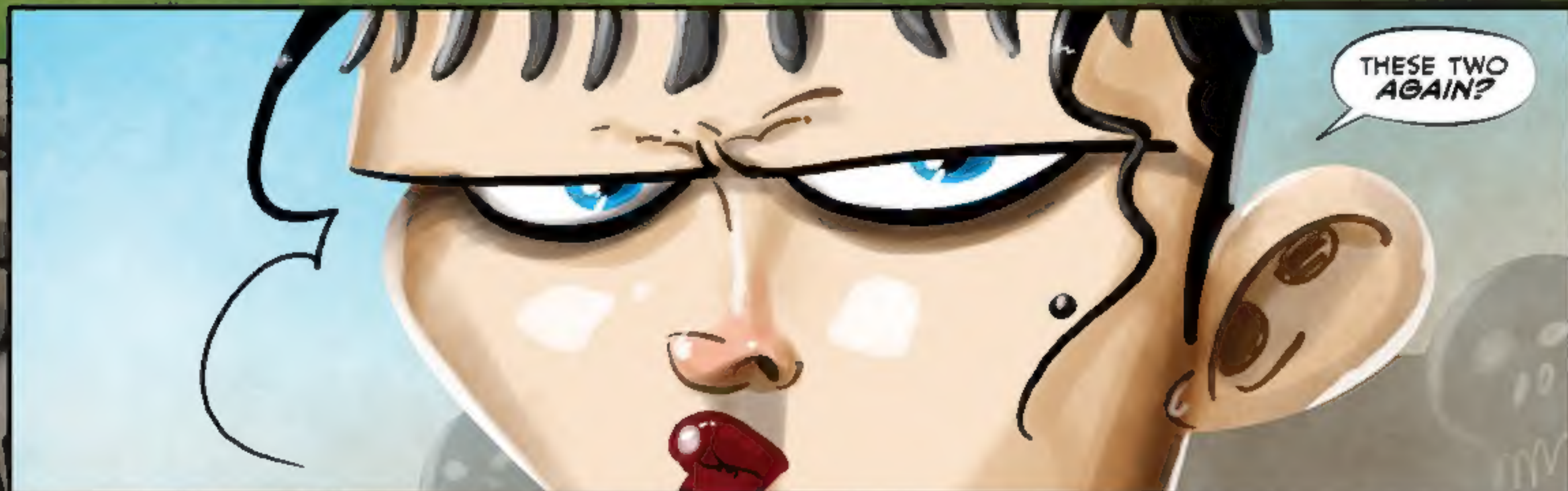
HEY, HOLLY, OVER HERE! IN THE CAGE!

OOF, I KNOW YOU'RE ALL UNCOORDINATED, BUT THIS RIDE IS REALLY ROUGH...

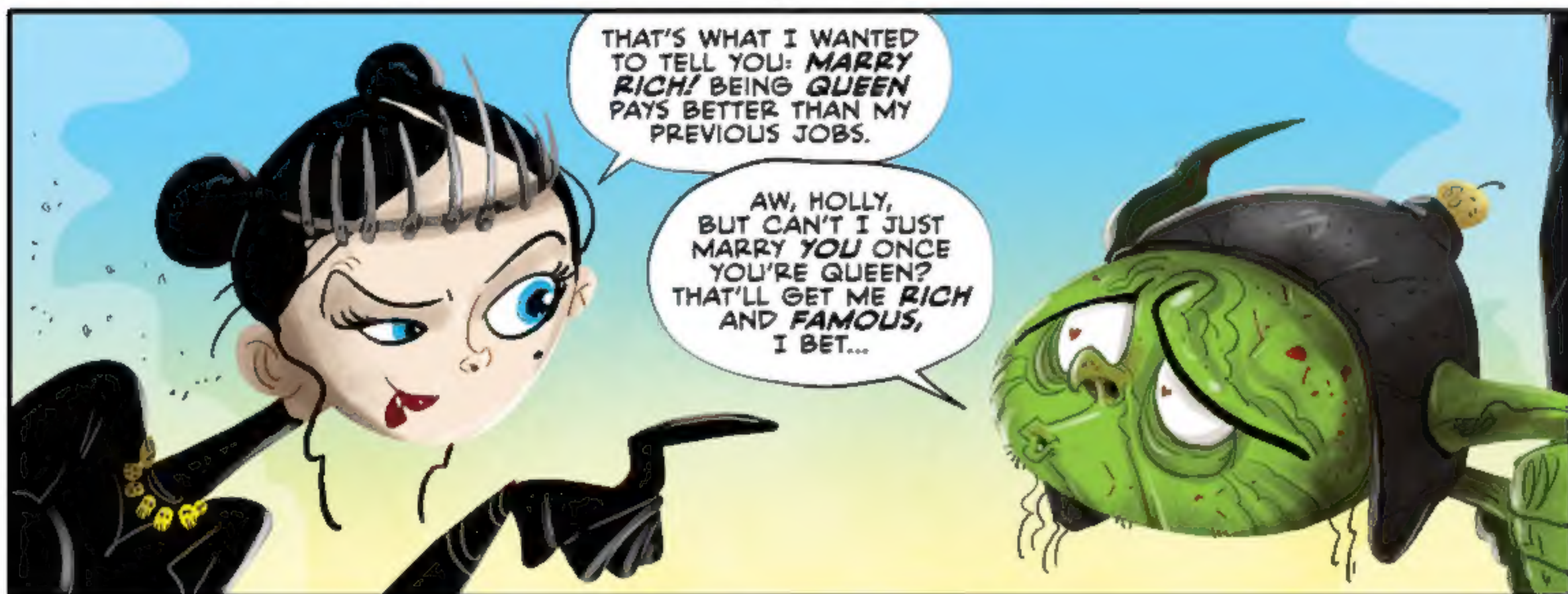
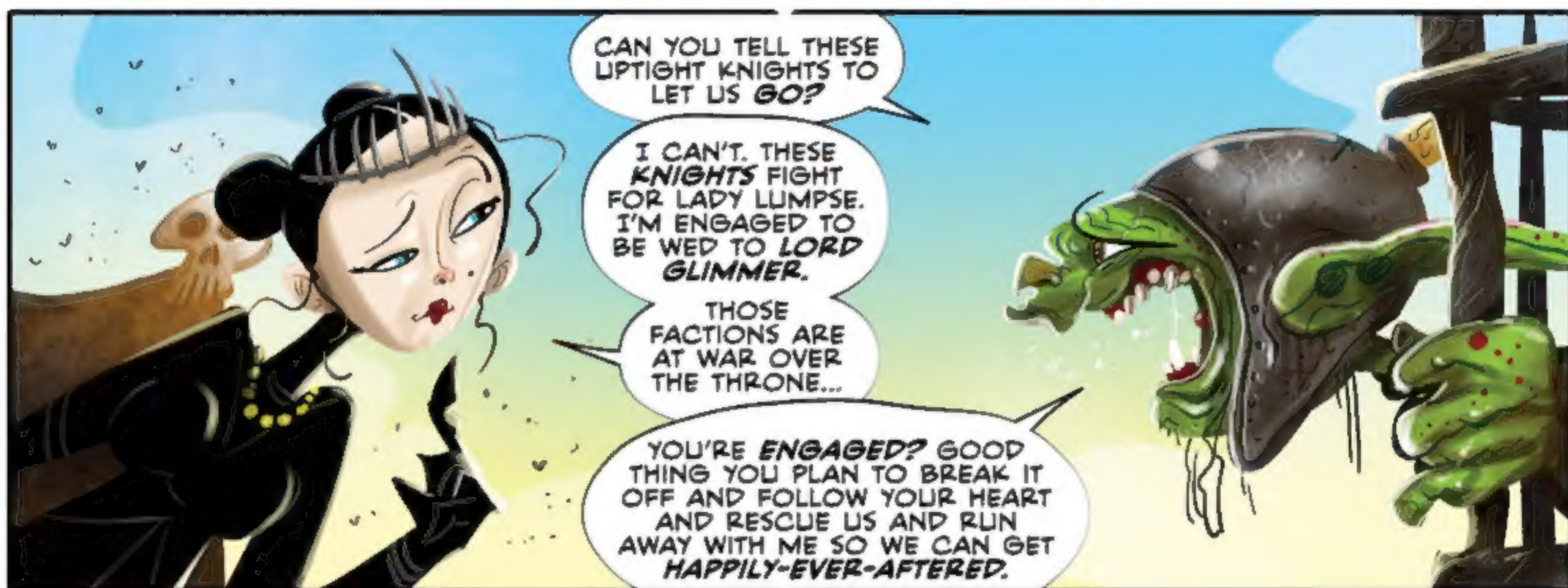
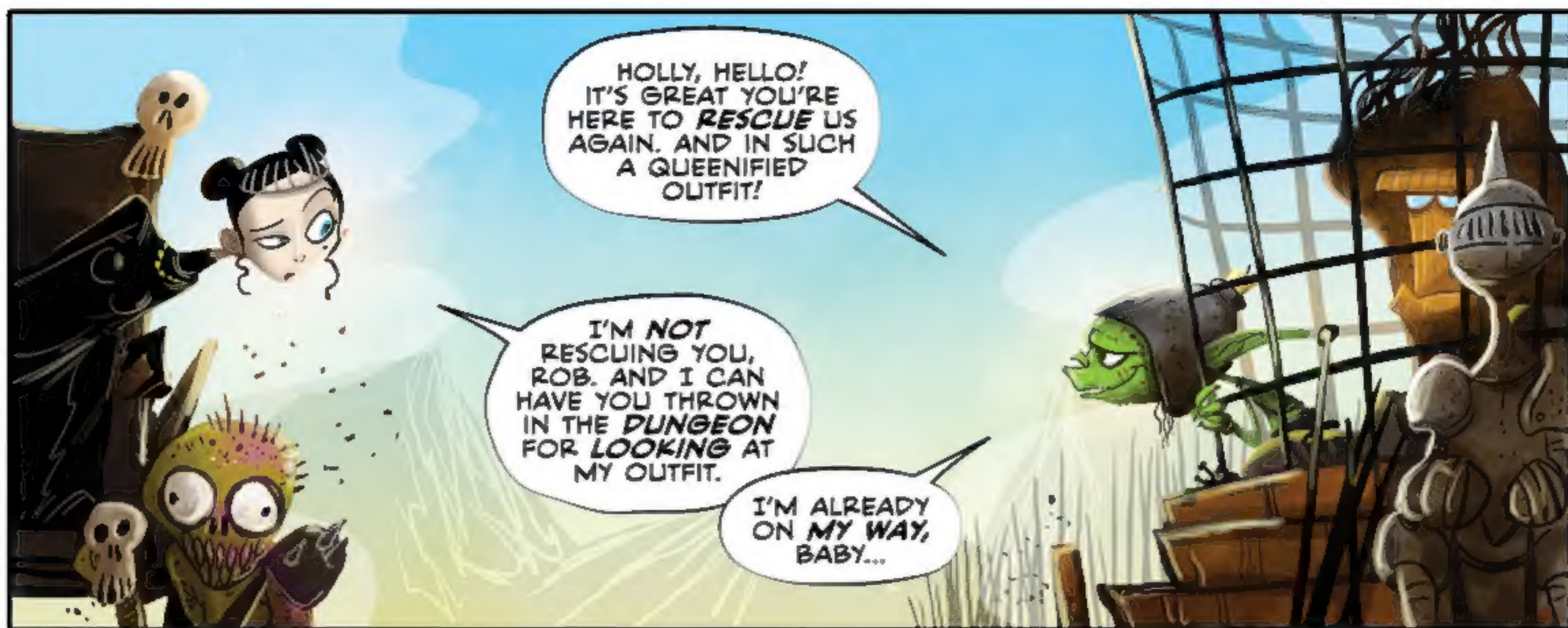
GRUMHH...

HOLLY BRANCH:
FORMER BARMAID, FUTURE QUEEN. CURRENTLY THE HIGHEST ONE IN THE FIELD.

THE UNDEAD:
YEAH, THEY'RE DEAD. THEY'RE... ALL MESSED UP.



THESE TWO AGAIN?



I'M NOT
QUEEN **YET!** SINCE
YOU'VE **DESTROYED**
ALL YOUR PREVIOUS
EMPLOYERS, WHY NOT
WORK FOR **LADY**
LUMPSE?

I GET TO
BE QUEEN IF
SHE'S **OUT** OF
THE **WAY!**

YOU HEAR THAT,
DOP? ALL WE HAVE TO
DO IS **ESCAPE** FROM JAIL,
WORK FOR THE LADY WHO
JAILED US, **DESTROY** HER AND
HER ENTIRE ARMY OF KNIGHTS,
THEN GO TO HOLLY--WHO
WILL BE THE NEW QUEEN
OF UNSTABLOVAKIA--AND
CONVINCE HER TO
MARRY ME.



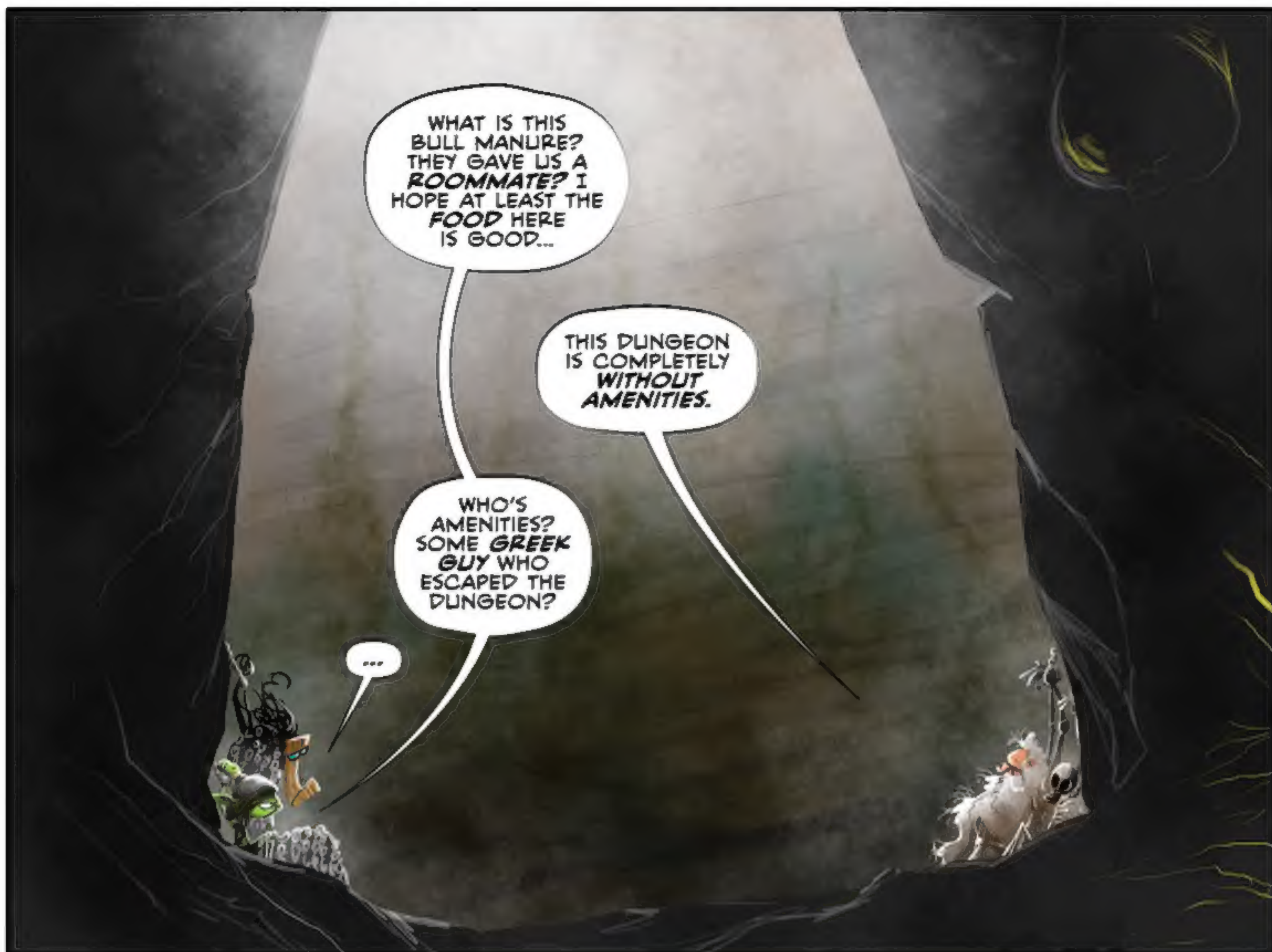
WE'LL
FINALLY BE
SUCCESSFUL!
SIMPLE,
RIGHT?

...

I'M
SO HAPPY
RIGHT
NOW!

...





WHAT IS THIS
BULL MANURE?
THEY GAVE US A
ROOMMATE? I
HOPE AT LEAST THE
FOOD HERE
IS GOOD...

THIS DUNGEON
IS COMPLETELY
WITHOUT
AMENITIES.

WHO'S
AMENITIES?
SOME **GREEK**
GUY WHO
ESCAPED THE
DUNGEON?

...



MY NAME IS
SIR TINLEY. I
HAVE BEEN IN THIS
DUNGEON FOR
70 YEARS.

CAN YOU
GIVE ME ANY
NEWS OF
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD?

SIR TINLEY:
OLD KNIGHT.
PRISONER. MORE
FAMILIAR WITH
DUNGEONS THAN
DRAGONS.



...

THE KINGDOM'S
WRECKED FROM
THE DEATH OF
KING DED, AND
EVERYBODY'S
OUT TO **CLAIM**
THE **THRONE.**

OOH, **ALSO,**
THERE'S THIS FANCY
NEW PIE SHOP CALLED
THE UPPER CRUST WITH
THESE AMAZING FLAVORS!
ONE'S CALLED "MIXED
BERRY." WHO THINKS OF
MIXING BERRIES?
THEY'RE **GENIUSES!**



FORGET THE
PIE SHOP, I
WANT TO HEAR
ABOUT THE
KINGDOM!

HMF!
I JUST THINK IT'S
IMPORTANT TO
SUPPORT **LOCAL**
BUSINESSES AND
MERCENARIES.

PLEASE! I
BEG TO HEAR NEWS
OF MY BELOVED
UNSTABLOVAKIA!

FINE.

"KING DED
DROWNED IN A
BARREL OF WINE
WITH NO HEIRS."

"HOW COULD A
BARREL OF WINE
HAVE HEIRS?"

"THE HEIR OF THE DOG
THAT BIT HIM? SEVERAL
ROYAL IDIOTS TRIED TO
CLAIM THE THRONE, BUT
ONLY LADY LUMPSE AND
LORD GLIMMER ARE LEFT."

LADY LUMPSE
COMMANDS HER
KNIGHTS, AND
LORD GLIMMER
HAS THE
UNDEAD.

DOP AND I HOPE TO GET
MERCENARY WORK WITH
EITHER, EVEN THOUGH I'M
A GOBLIN AND HE'S A
DOPPELGANGER.

A SHAPESHIFTER?
CAN HE SHAPE HIS
HAND INTO A KEY
TO UNLOCK THESE
CHAINS?

NOT HOW
IT WORKS,
TINLEY.

IF YOU WANT TO WORK
WITH KNIGHTS, YOU SHOULD
KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF
THEIR CODE OF HONOR.

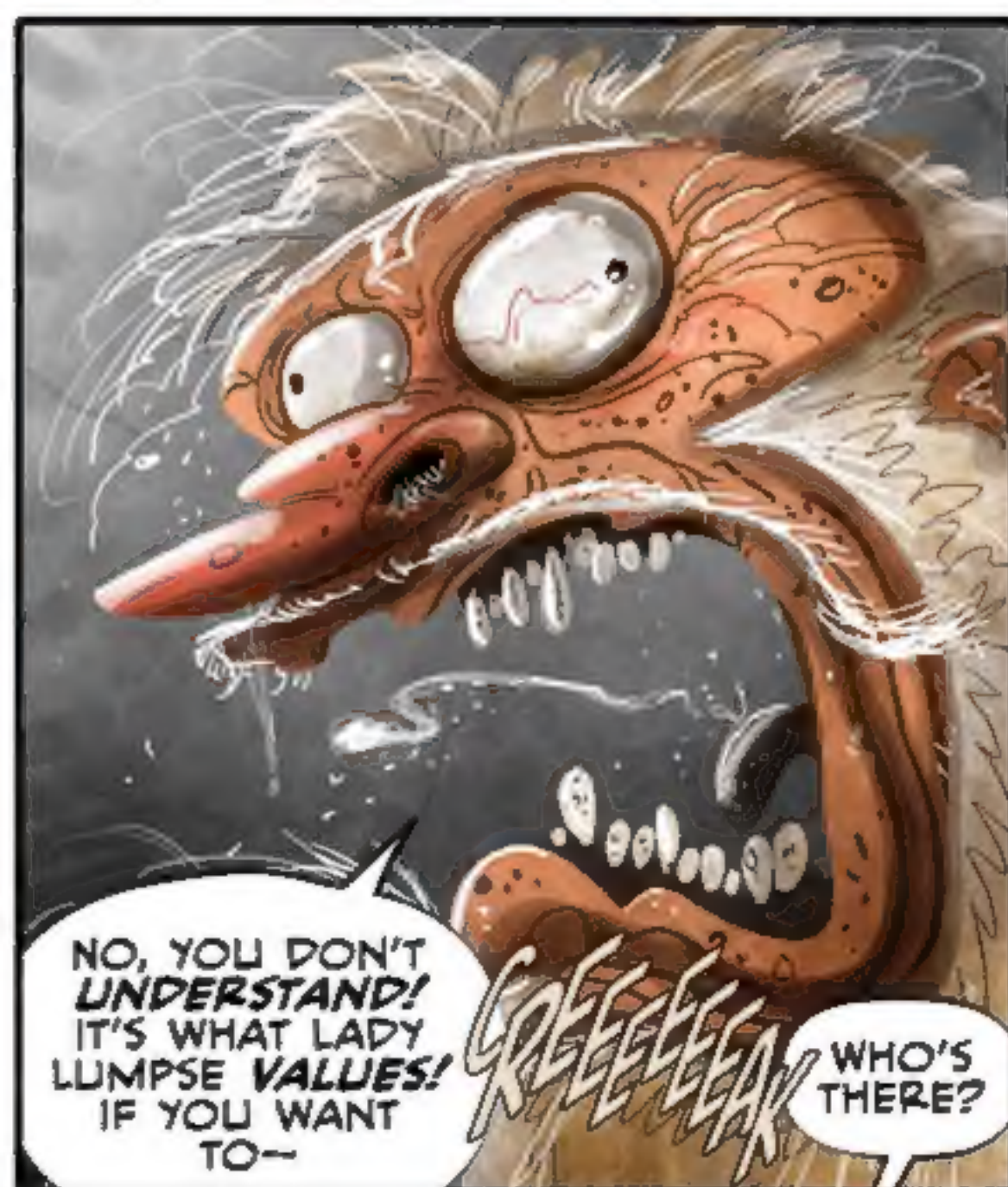
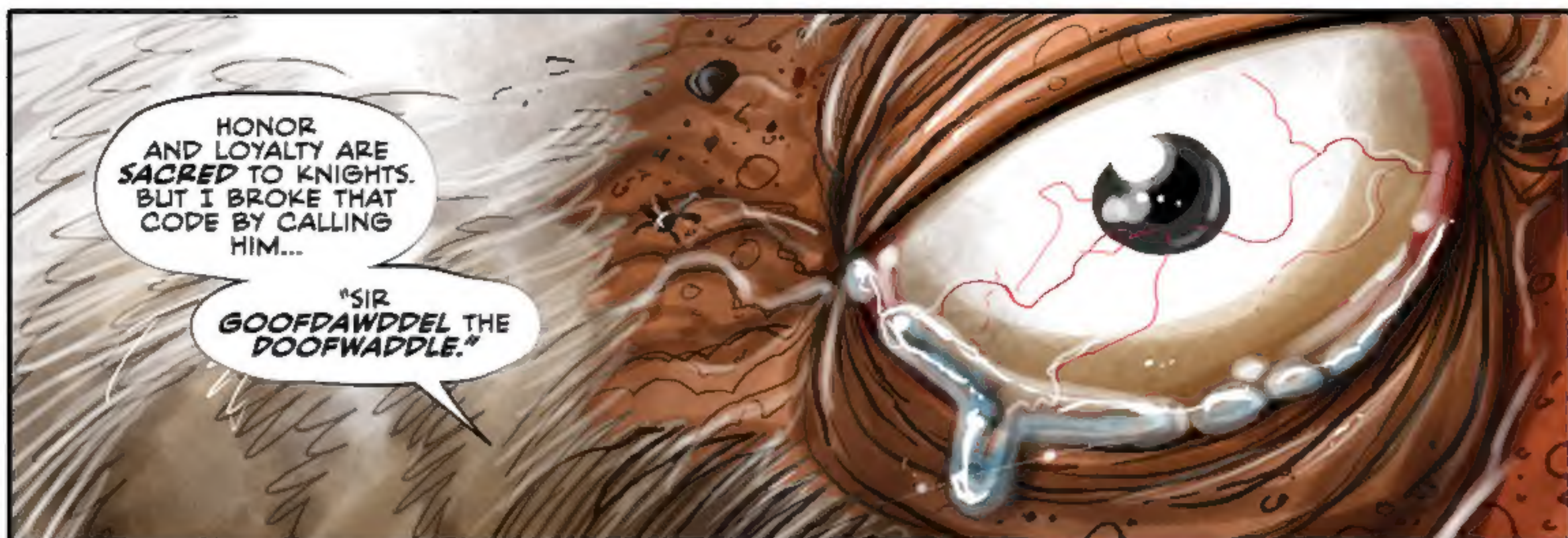
I SHALL TELL
YOU HOW I
CAME TO THIS
DUNGEON...

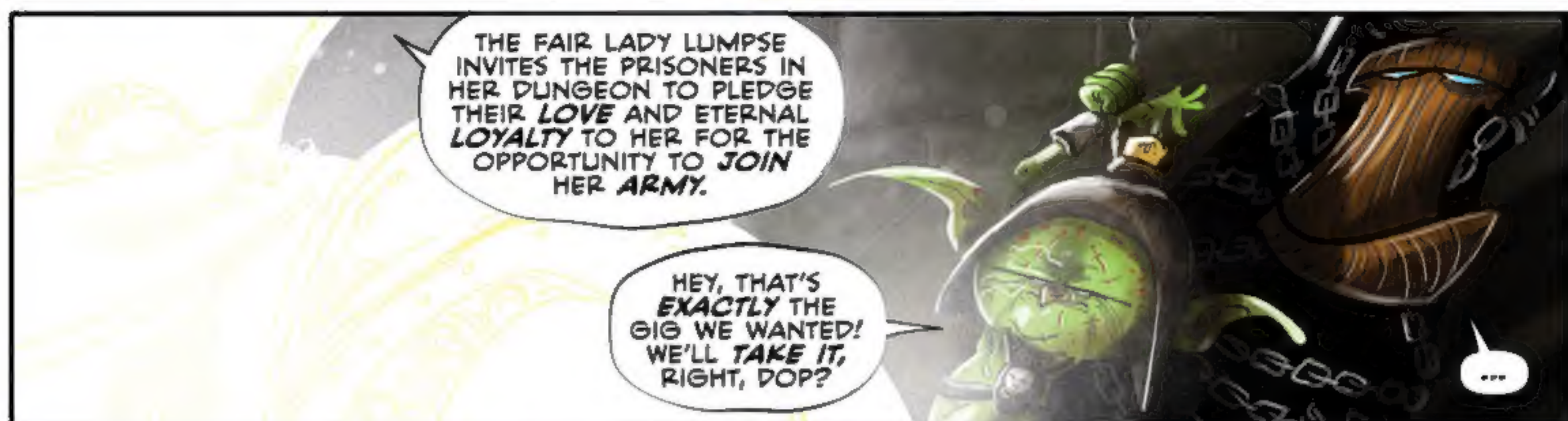
LOOK, PAL, DO
NOT MISTAKE US BEING
IMPRISONED FOR US
BEING CAPTIVATED...

OVER 70 YEARS
AGO, I SERVED AS
A KNIGHT WITH SIR
GOOFDAWDEL...

SIR
GOOFDAWDEL?
UGH. BO-RING!

I'M SO BORED
I FEEL LIKE I'VE
ALREADY BEEN
HERE 70 YEARS
TOO!







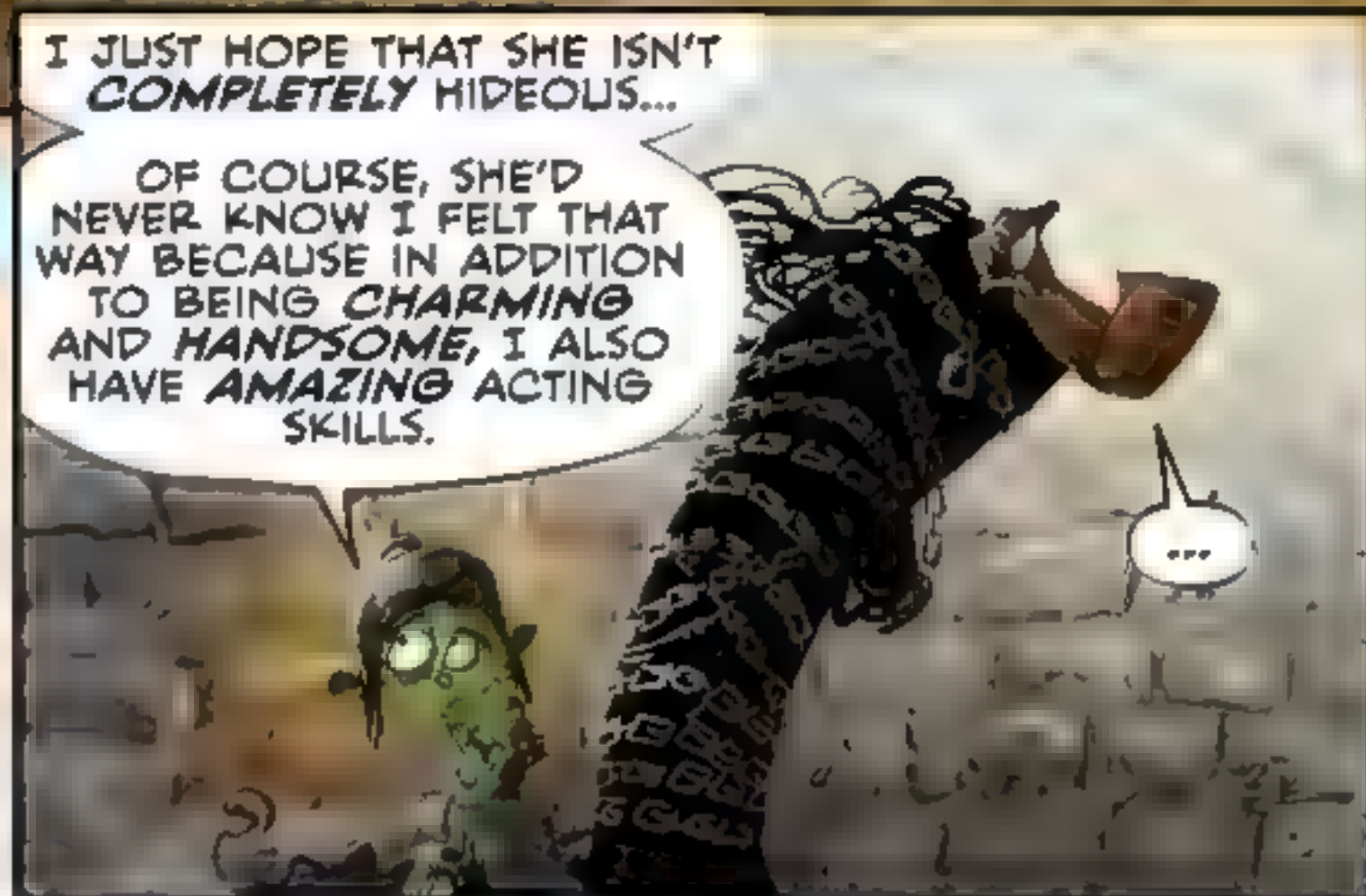
I HAVE
A VERY
CUNNING
PLAN.

WANT
TO HEAR
IT?

...



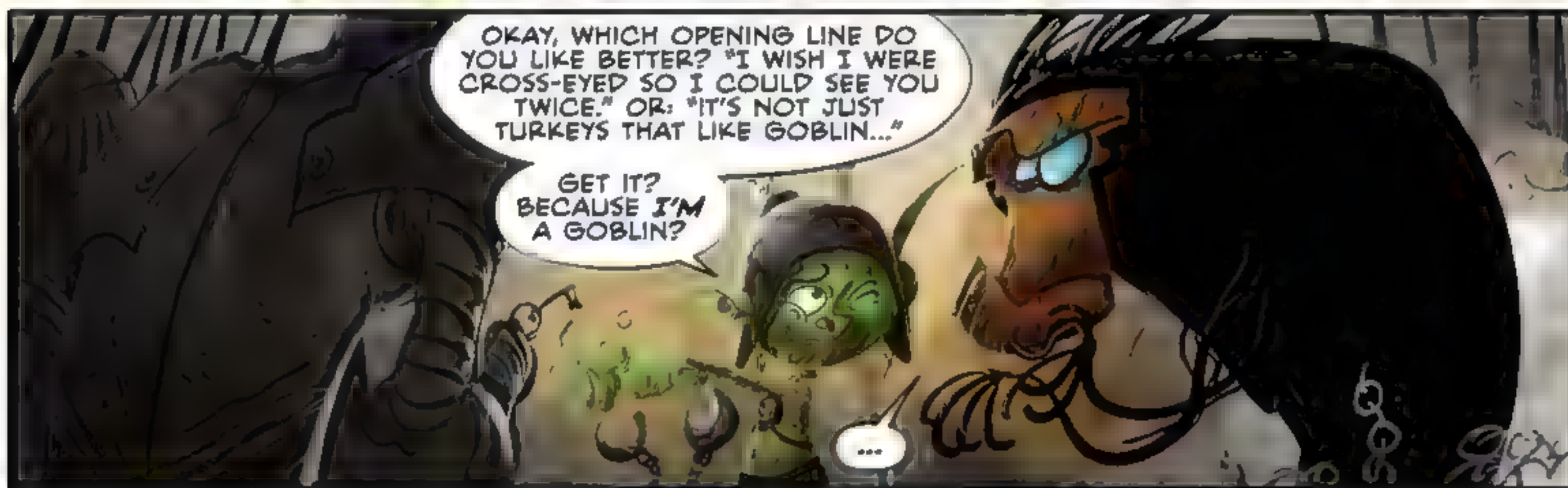
I'M FOLLOWING HOLLY'S
ADVICE TO **MARRY RICH!**
I'LL **FAKE** A ROMANCE WITH
LADY LUMPSE AND ASCEND
THE RANKS OF SOCIETY BY
MARRYING HER!



I JUST HOPE THAT SHE ISN'T
COMPLETELY HIDEOUS...

OF COURSE, SHE'D
NEVER KNOW I FELT THAT
WAY BECAUSE IN ADDITION
TO BEING **CHARMING**
AND **HANDSOME**, I ALSO
HAVE **AMAZING** ACTING
SKILLS.

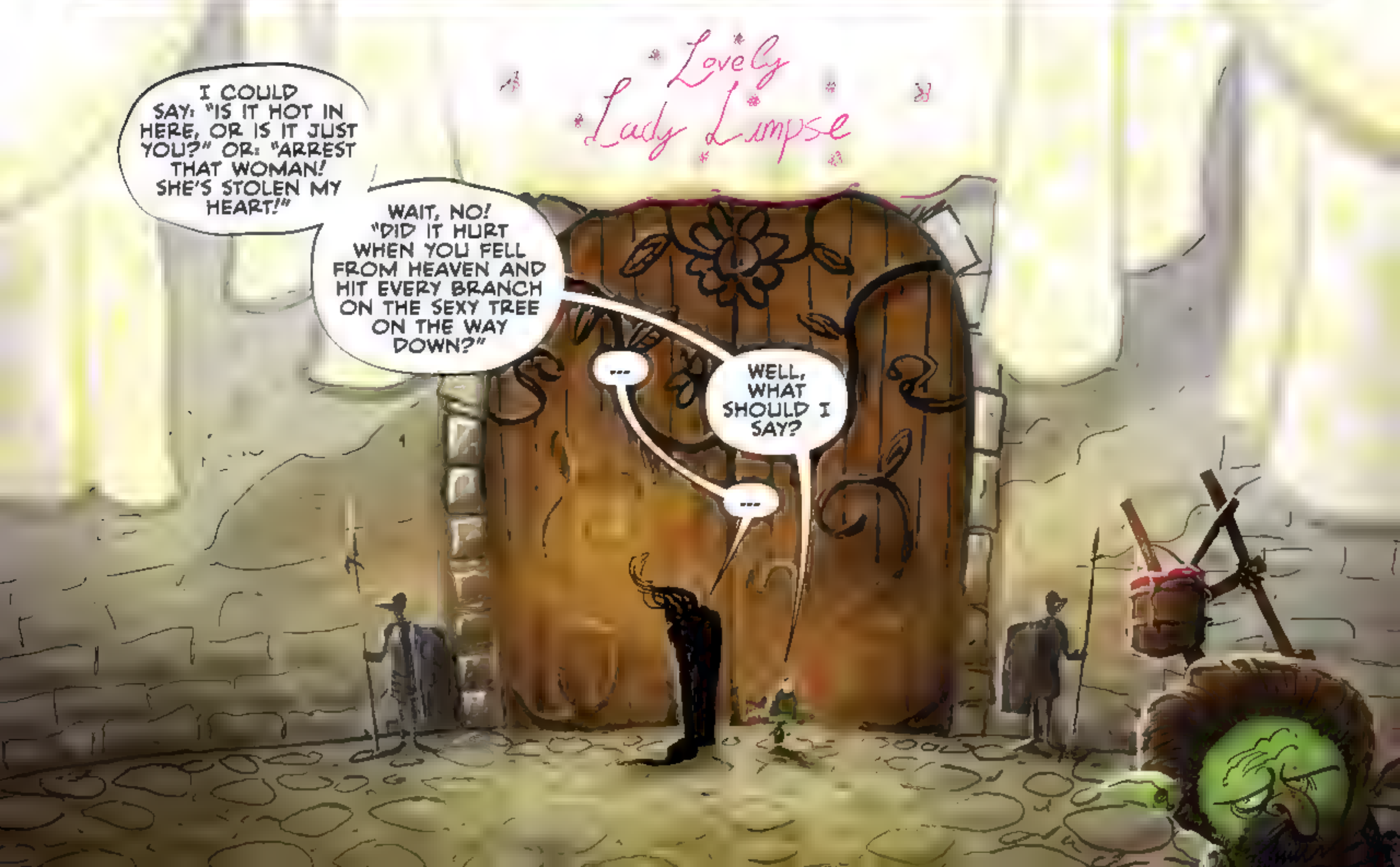
...



OKAY, WHICH OPENING LINE DO
YOU LIKE BETTER? "I WISH I WERE
CROSS-EYED SO I COULD SEE YOU
TWICE." OR: "IT'S NOT JUST
TURKEYS THAT LIKE GOBLIN..."

GET IT?
BECAUSE I'M
A GOBLIN?

...



*Lovely
Lady Lumpse*

I COULD
SAY: "IS IT HOT IN
HERE, OR IS IT JUST
YOU?" OR: "ARREST
THAT WOMAN!
SHE'S STOLEN MY
HEART!"

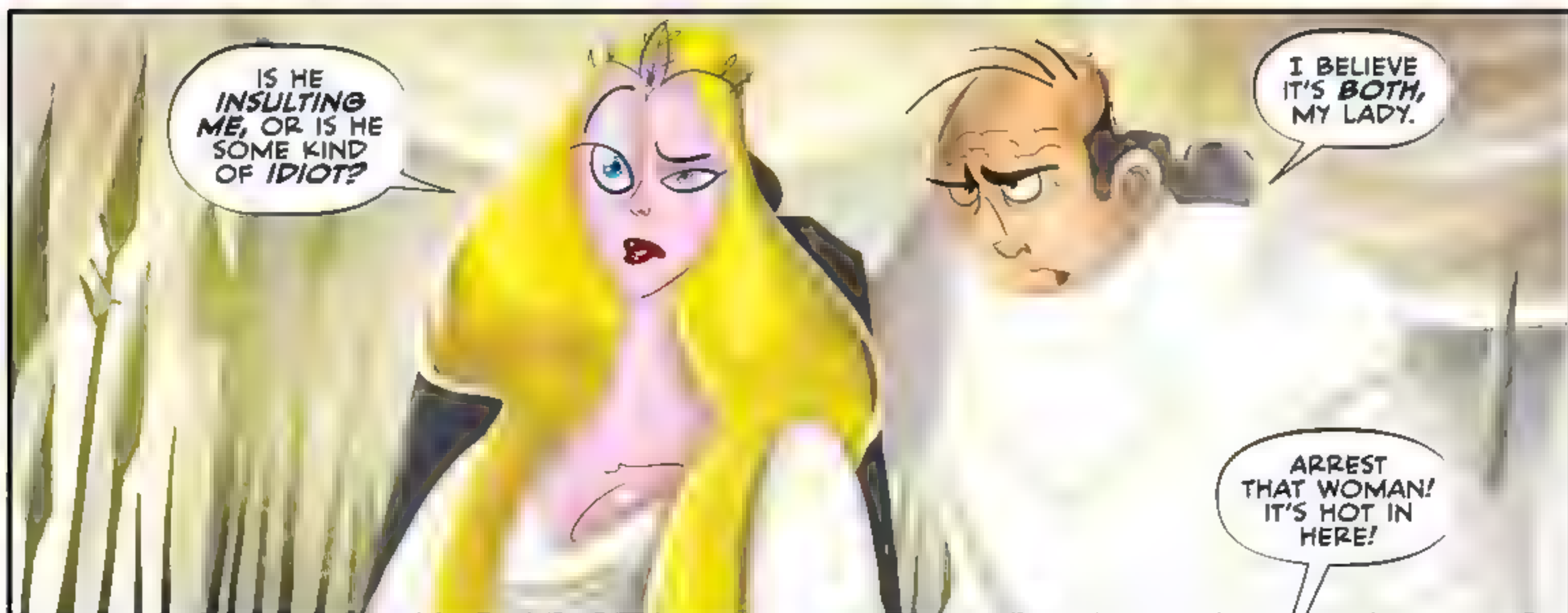
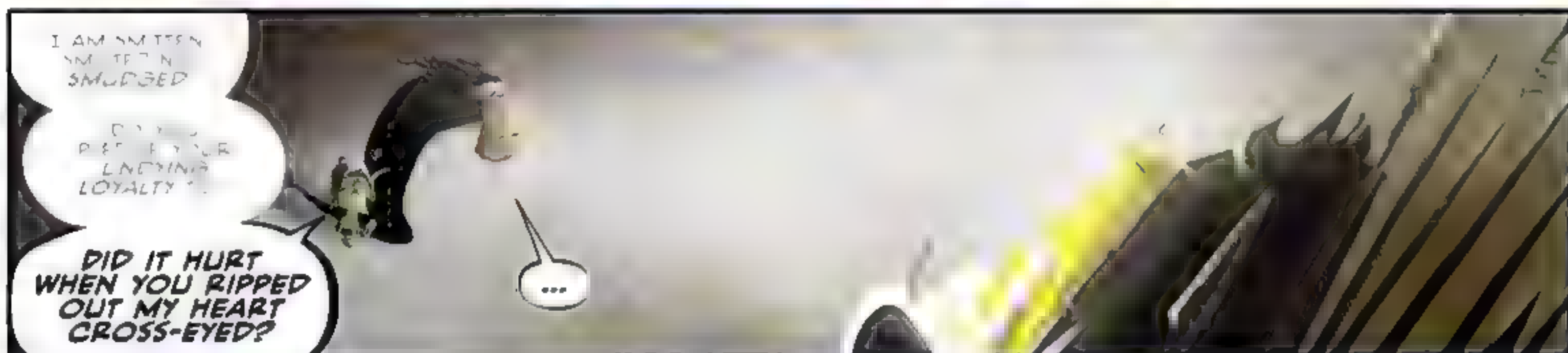
WAIT, NO!
"DID IT HURT
WHEN YOU FELL
FROM HEAVEN AND
HIT EVERY BRANCH
ON THE SEXY TREE
ON THE WAY
DOWN?"

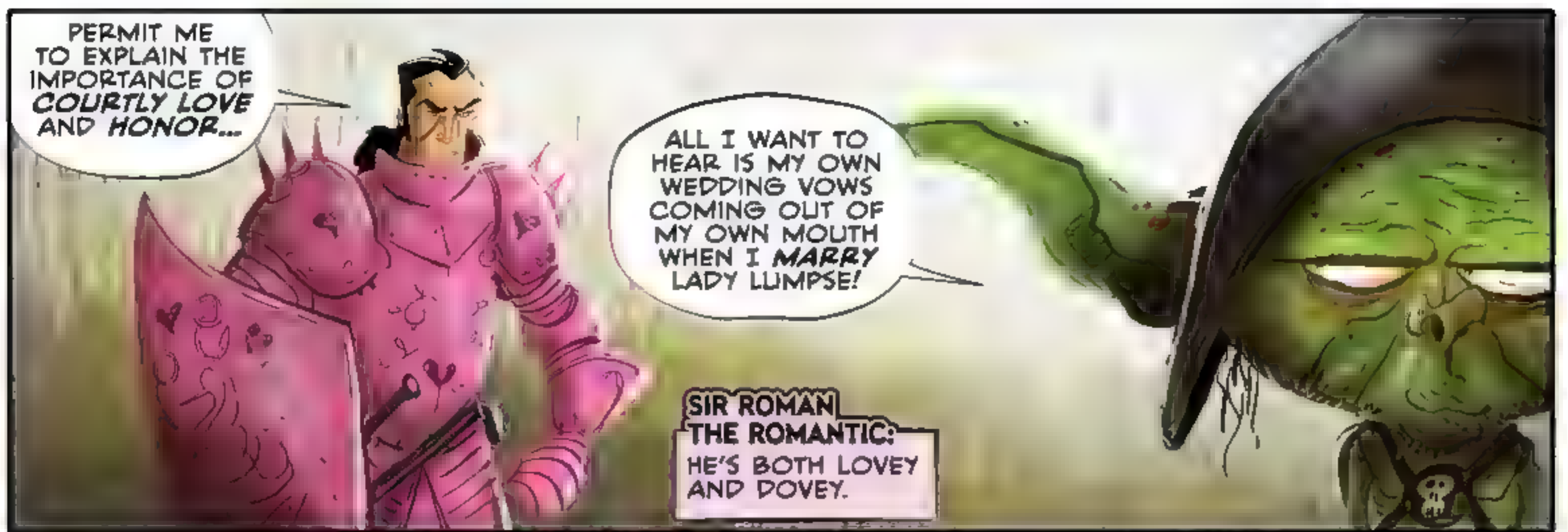
...

WELL,
WHAT
SHOULD I
SAY?

...







PERMIT ME TO EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF **COURTLY LOVE** AND **HONOR**...

ALL I WANT TO HEAR IS MY OWN WEDDING VOWS COMING OUT OF MY OWN MOUTH WHEN I **MARRY** LADY LUMPSE!

SIR ROMAN THE ROMANTIC:
HE'S BOTH LOVEY AND DOVEY.



COURTLY LOVE IS THE ENNOBLING PASSION KNIGHTS HAVE FOR THEIR LADY, WHOLESOME AND **CHASTE**.

EXACTLY! "**WHOLESOME AND CHASED**"! I'LL CHASE THIS FOXY BABY TAMALE UNTIL SHE LOVES ME!

THAT'S NOT HOW ANYTHING WORKS FOR ANYONE...



WE HAVE ALL SWORN A VOW OF LOYALTY TO LADY LUMPSE AND SHALL KEEP IT NO MATTER **WHO** SHE MARRIES...

FINE, FINE, FINE. AS LONG AS SHE MARRIES **ME**.

SMACK

OW, HEY! WHAT WAS THAT FOR?



MY KNIGHTS ARE READY TO **DIE** FOR ME. THEY HAVE PLEDGED ABSOLUTE LOYALTY TO MY MESSAGE OF **LOVE AND PEACE**.

(WHICH WILL COME **RIGHT AFTER** THE VIOLENT WAR...)

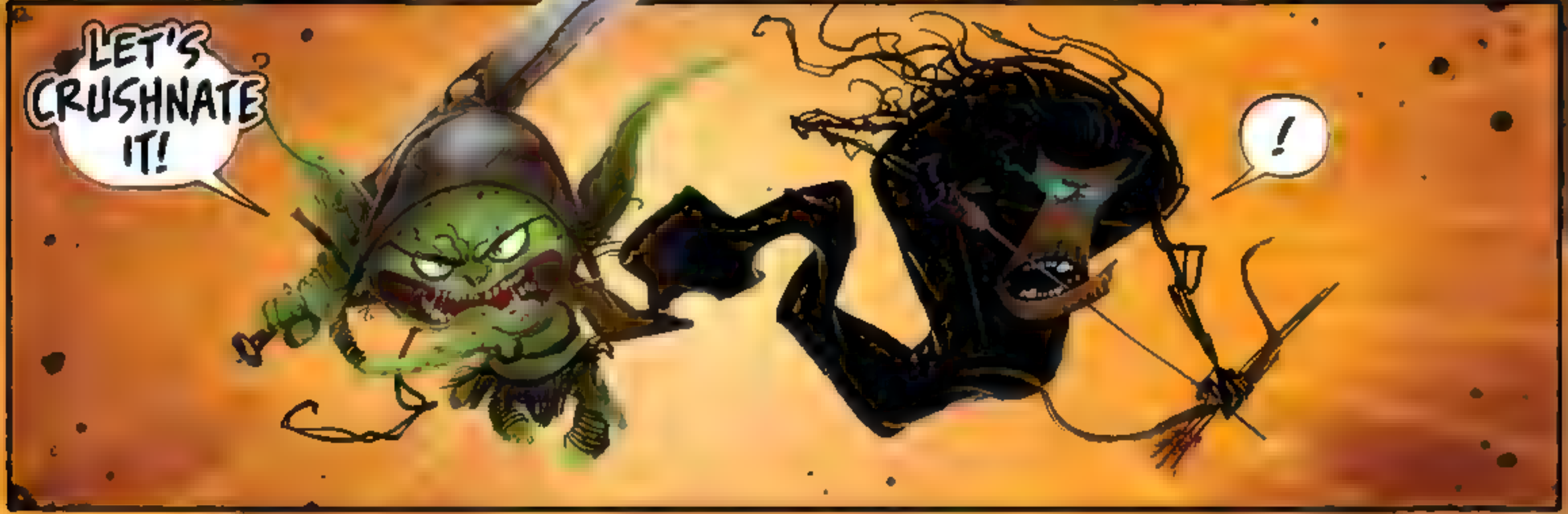


SO HOW DO YOU WANT US TO **PROVE** OUR LOYALTY OR WHATEVER? IS THERE SOME SORT OF **OBSTACLE COURSE** OR SOMETHING?



OH. THERE
ACTUALLY IS
AN OBSTACLE
COURSE...

...



LET'S
CRUSHNATE
IT!

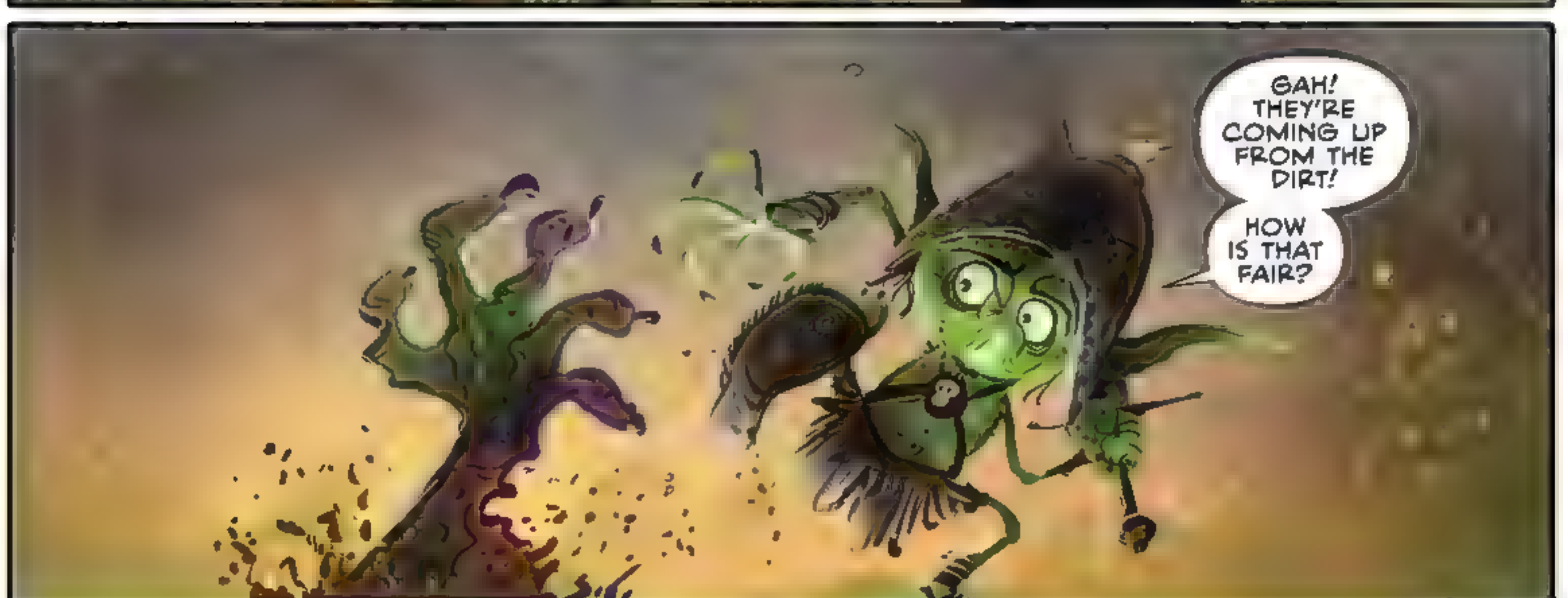
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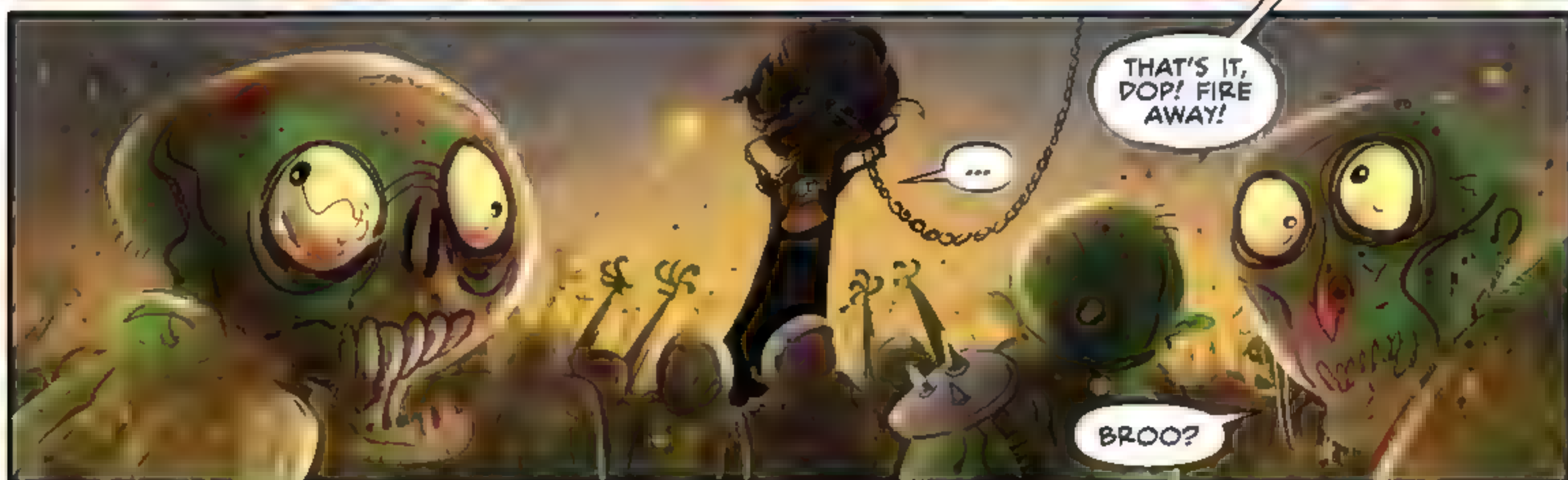
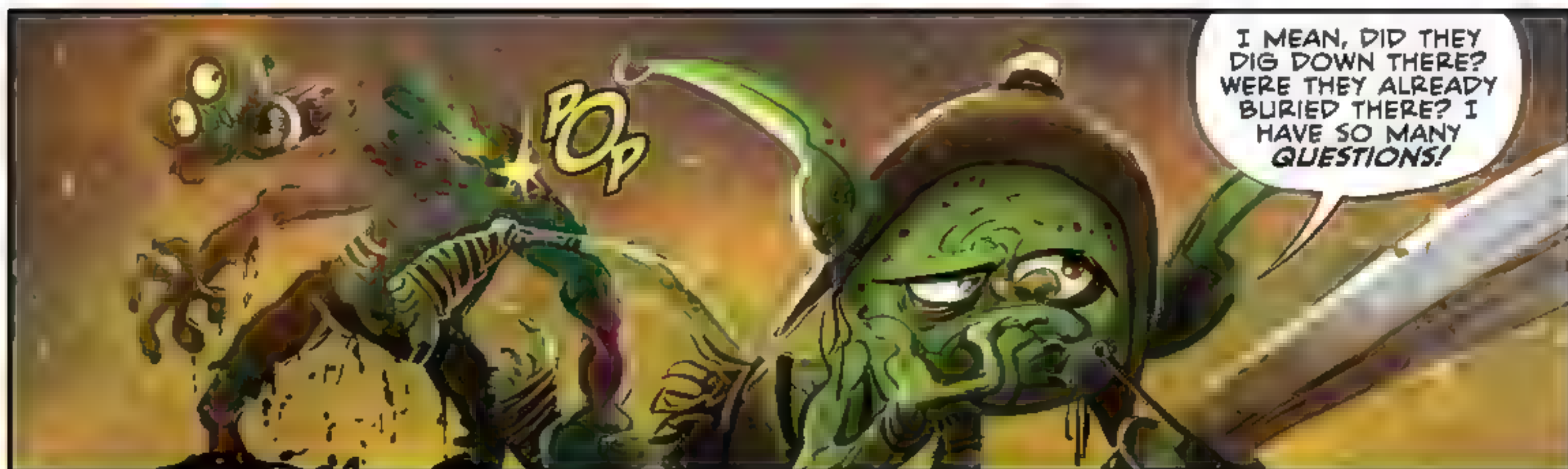


"THOSE
TWO ARE...NOT
TERRIBLE..."

"WAIT, DO
YOU HEAR
THAT?"

GRUHHH...





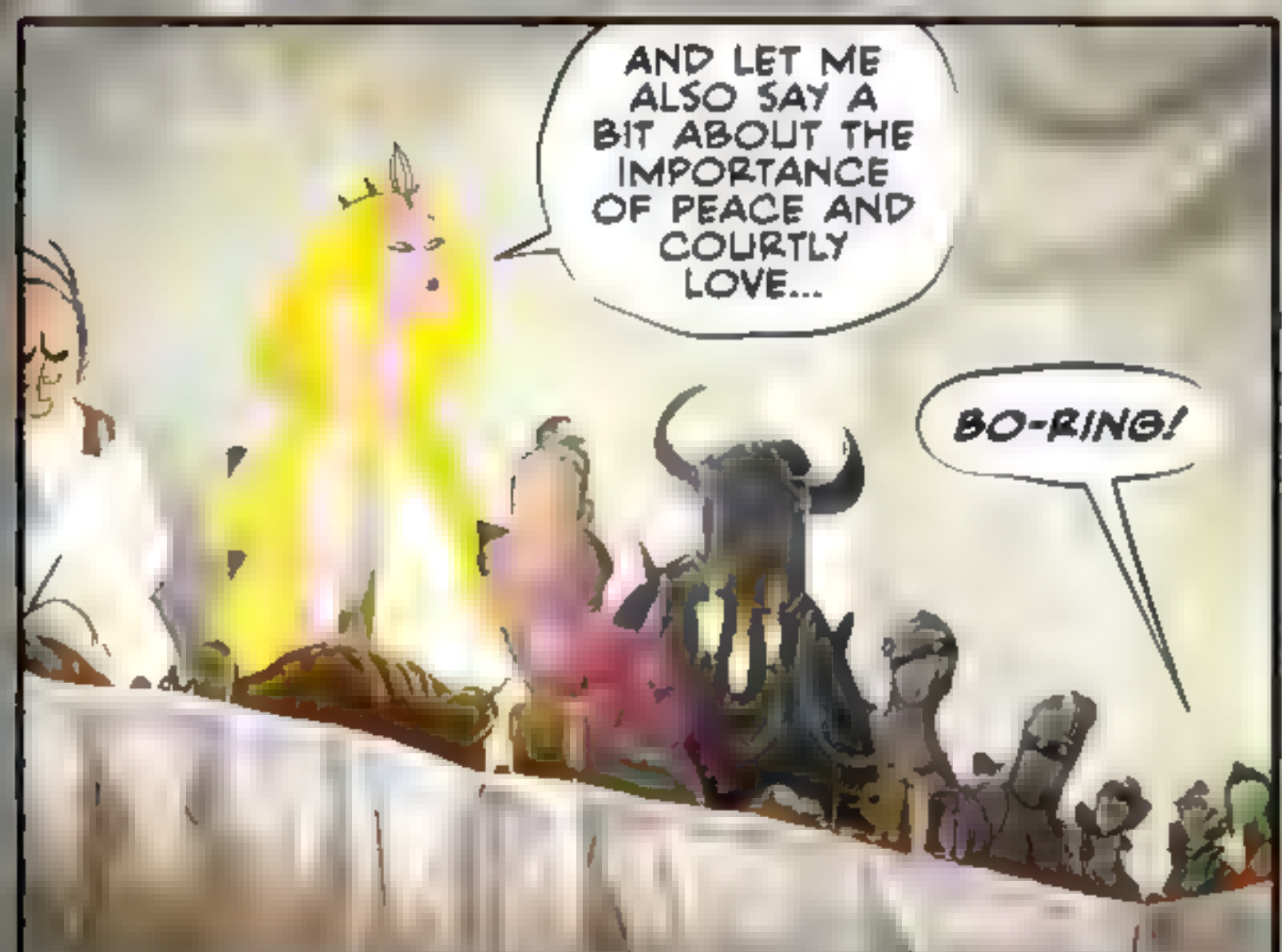


I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST.

TO THE COURAGE AND VALOR OF OUR NEWEST KNIGHTLY RECRUITS: COB AND PLOP!

YES, THOSE ARE OUR NAMES NOW.

...



AND LET ME ALSO SAY A BIT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND COURTLY LOVE...

BO-RING!



EVERYTHING WE HAVE HERE--OUR FOUNDATION--IS BASED ON LOYALTY.

YOU HAVE ALL SWORN AN OATH OF COURTLY LOVE TO ME, REGARDLESS OF WHO MARRIES ME.



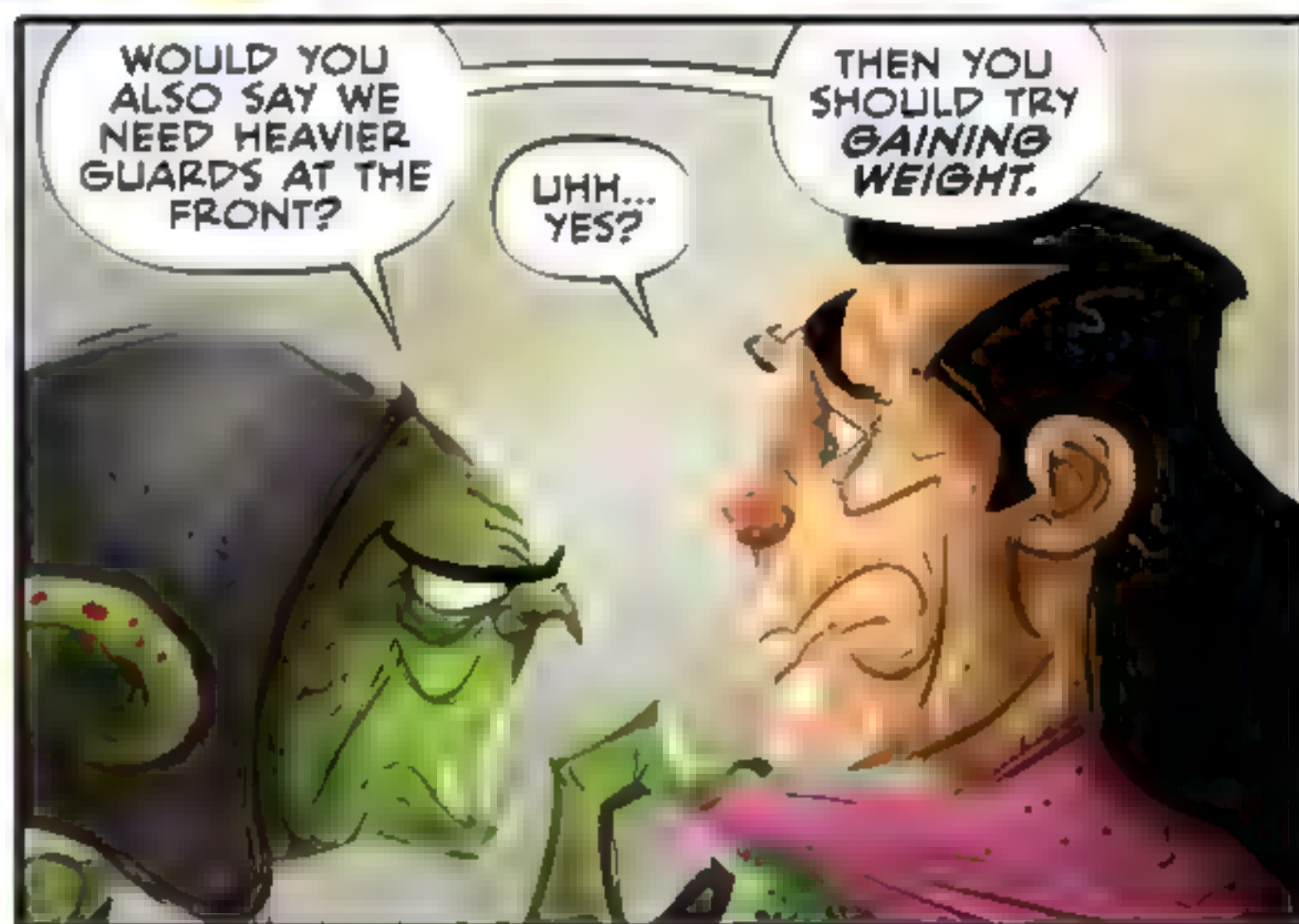
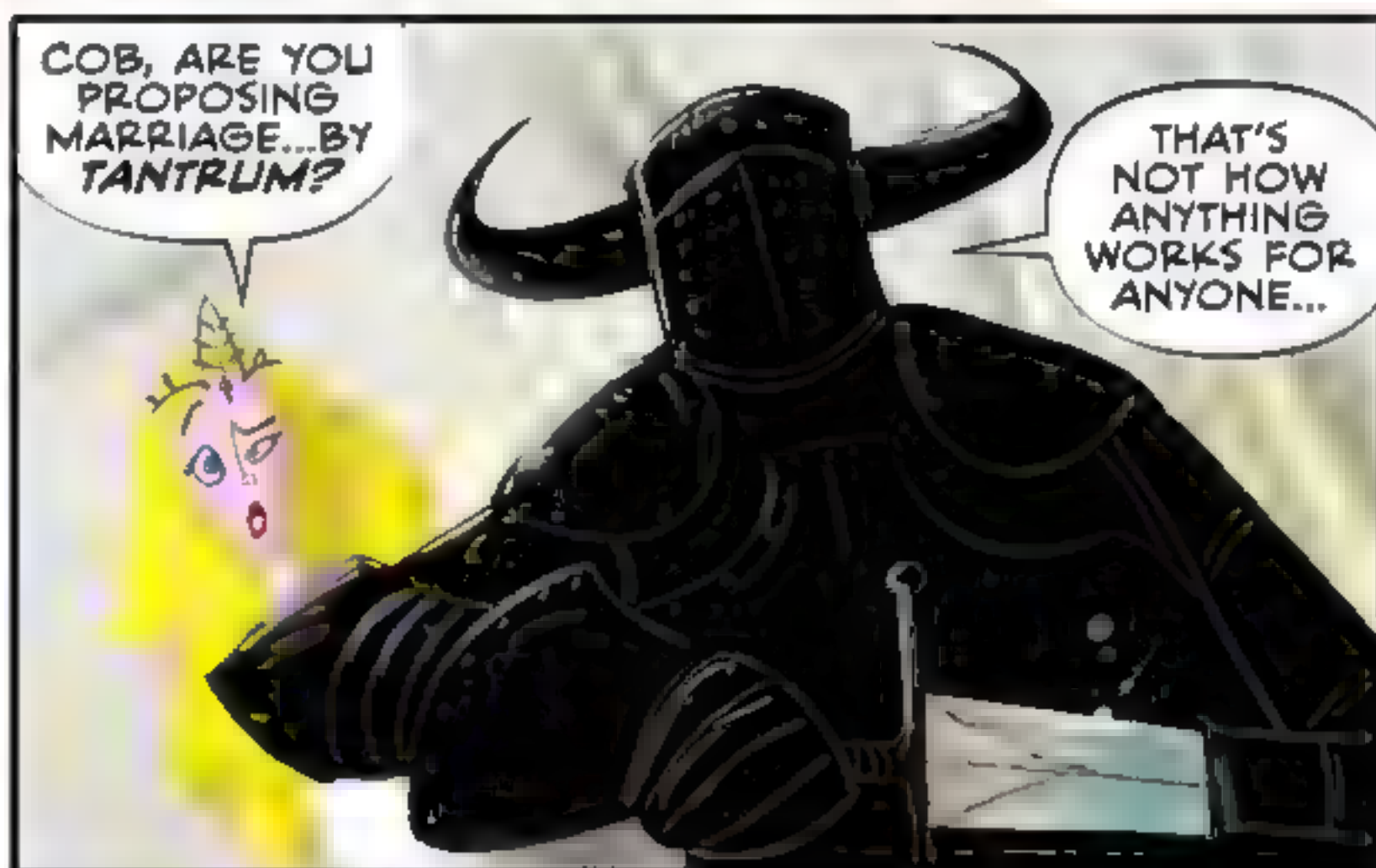
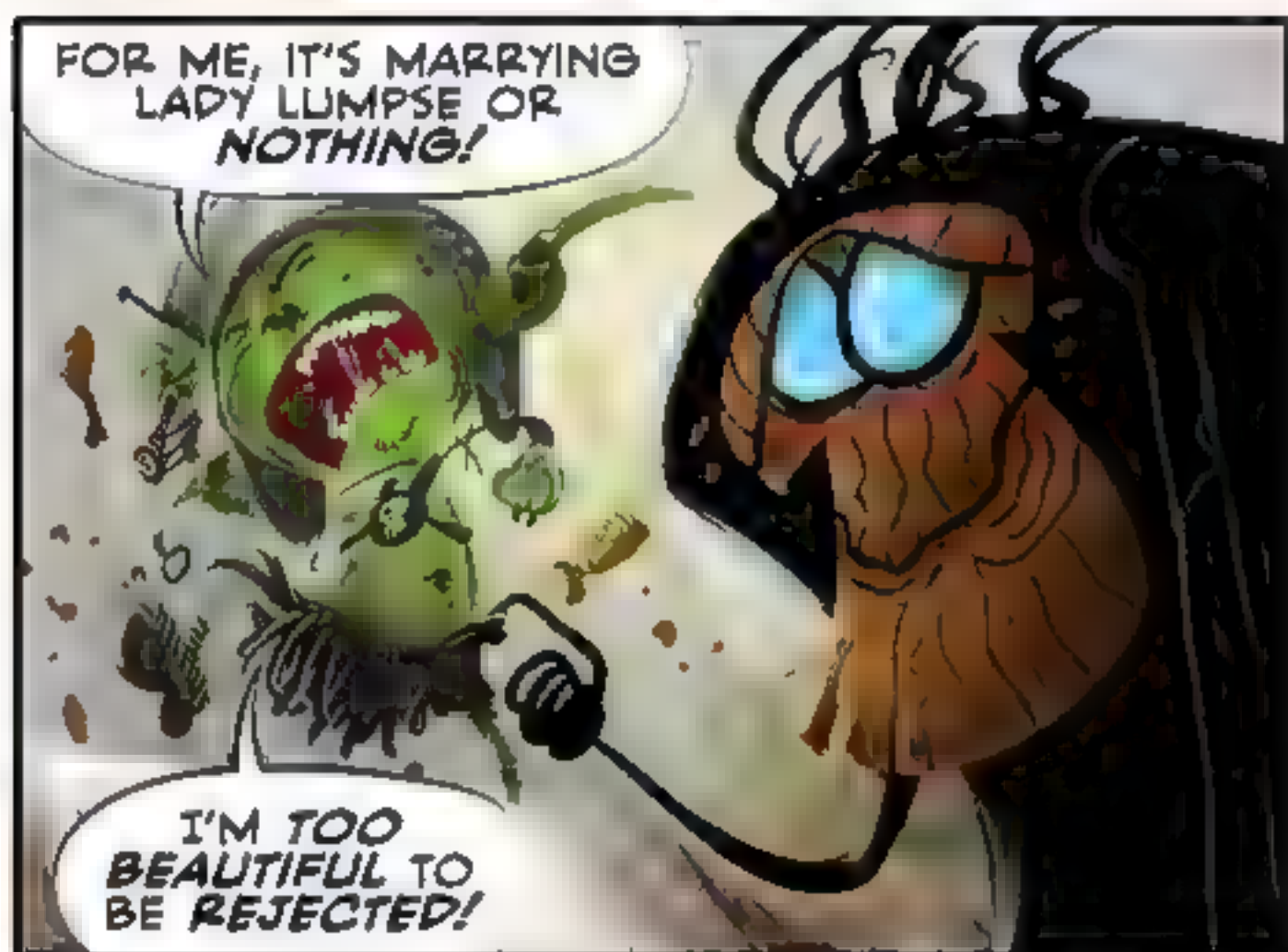
AND I'D LIKE TO COUNTEROFFER A COUNTERPROPOSAL WITH A COUNTERTOAST--

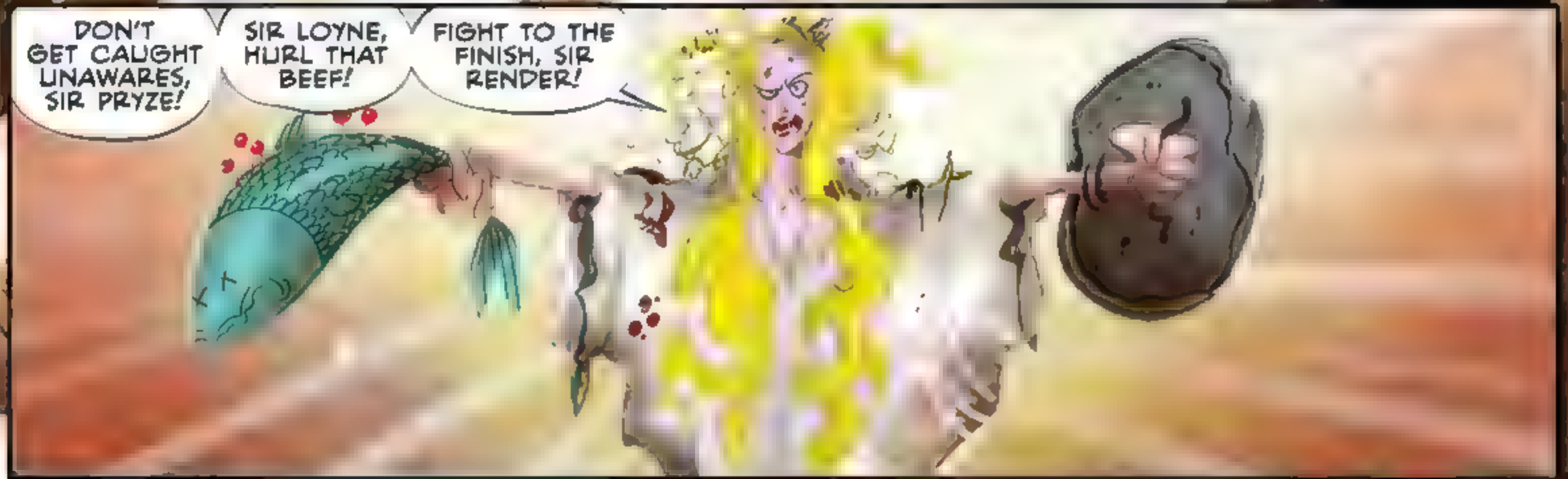
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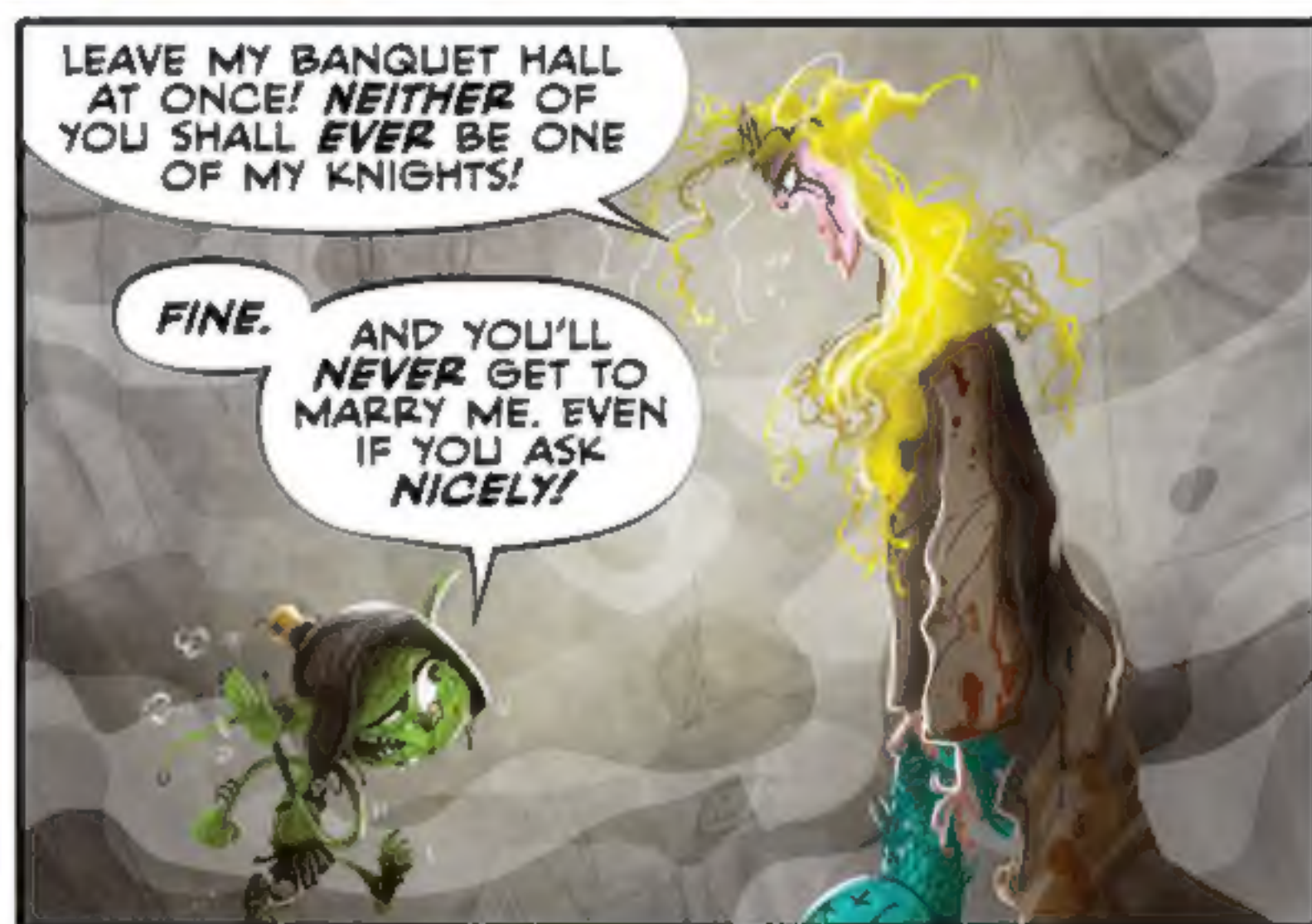
I SAY: LOYALTY, SCHMOYALTY!

IF ANYBODY OTHER THAN ME MARRIES LADY LUMPESE, I'M DITCHING YOU DOPES AND THIS JERKWATER CASTLE!



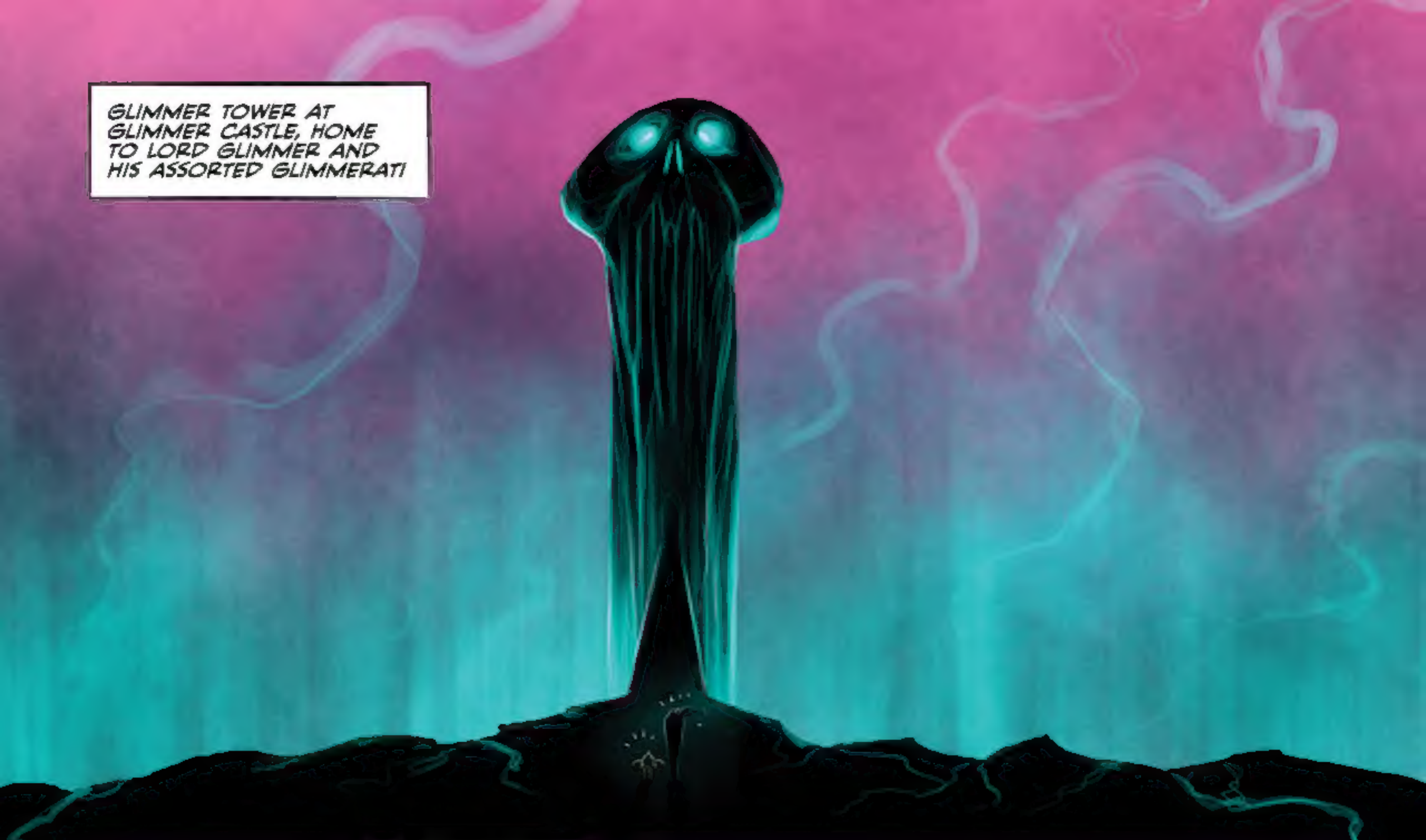








GLIMMER TOWER AT GLIMMER CASTLE, HOME TO LORD GLIMMER AND HIS ASSORTED GLIMMERATI



LOOK, DOP! I PICKPOCKETED SOME OF THOSE KNIGHTS WHILE THEY WERE BEATING ME UP! GENIUS, HUH?

...

WELCOME TO GLIMMER CASTLE! "WHERE THE GLIMMER IS FREE!" BUT THE CASTLE'S **ENTRY FEE** JUST HAPPENS TO BE... HOWEVER MANY COINS YOU HAVE IN HERE.

WELL, THAT'S... **GOOD**, I GUESS?

...

SNAG

LORD GLIMMER.
A WEALTHY ARISTOCRAT WHO IS NOW ONE BAG OF COINS WEALTHIER.

I ASSUME YOU'VE MET MY ARMY OF THE UNDEAD, RIGHT? THEY'RE DEAD, BUT THEY'RE **NOT DEAD. UNDEAD.** LATEST THING. SPECTACULAR. BELIEVE ME.

IT'S GOOD WE RAN INTO YOU, LORD GLIMMER. BECAUSE WE WERE HOPING YOU'D **HIRE US AS MERCENARIES...**

WHY SHOULD I HIRE YOU?



